

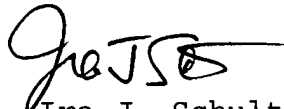
REMARKS

The specification has been amended to add proper subject matter headings and a section entitled Brief Description of the Drawings.

The claims have been amended to delete the multiple dependencies.

Attached hereto is the Search Report of the corresponding PCT application, with copies of the references cited therein which are listed on the attached Form PTO-1449.

Respectfully submitted,



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APPENDIXIN THE SPECIFICATION:

Page 1, above line 1: [Technical Domain] Field of the invention;

line 7, [Sate] State of the art

Page 3, line 3, [Description] Summary of the invention

IN THE CLAIMS:

Page 12, above line 1: [CLAIMS] WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

4. (Amended) Device according to claim 2 [or 3], characterised in that the orifices are located at the top of tapered protuberances.

5. (Amended) Device according to [anyone of claims 1 to 4] claim 1, characterised in that the spreading ratio is obtained by mechanically or geometrically limiting the said contact area.

7. (Amended) Device according to claim 5 [or 6], characterised in that when the material used for the static part (21) is non wettable, each protuberance (32) comprises only one gas emission orifice (22).

8. (Amended) Device according to claim 6 [or 7], characterised in that at least one of the protuberances (32) is removable.

9. (Amended) Device according to [anyone of claims 1 to 8] claim 1, characterised in that it comprises means such that the gas pressure at the outlet orifice is approximately constant, regardless of the gas flow.

11. (Amended) Device according to [anyone of claims 1 to 10] claim 1, characterised in that a shearing energy is added to the liquid metal (3, 23) preferably by means of ultra sounds or a rotary stirrer.

12. (Amended) Device according to [anyone of claims 1 to 11] claim 1, characterised in that the orifices (2, 22) are separated from each other by a distance such that the bubbles do not come into contact while they are being formed.

13. (Amended) Device according to [anyone of claims 1 to 12] claim 1, characterised in that the static injection part (1, 21) is made of one or several elements assembled together.

15. (Amended) Process for the treatment of a liquid metal (3, 23) by injection of a gas, making use of the static gas injection device according to [anyone of claims 1 to 13] claim 1.

16. (Amended) Treatment process according to [either of claims 14 and 15] claim 14, characterised in that the bubble size (11, 31) is measured using a method consisting of irradiating the liquid metal bath (3, 23) into which the bubbles are emitted using X-rays, displaying the said bubbles after the image has been retrieved by a camera, and measuring them after calibration of the acquisition system.